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(20)

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

①
 TO: FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin only! (NOT OTHER!!
 FAX: (866)-418-0232 PERSON)
 FROM: JOHN S. THOMSON - (DEAF)
 FAX: (412)-751-8538
 NO. OF PAGES: (20) 3:15 A.M.

POST A COMMENT - 12:48 A.M. & 12:52 A.M. - 1:02 A.M.

NAME:

JOHN S. THOMSON - (DEAF)

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

JST1477@COMCAST.NET

COMMENTS:

9/13/07 - (THURS.)

FCC - Chairman Kevin Martin:

complaint - about the closed captioning on TV with
 the channels in PA. - Digital signal,
 etc. from the Broadcasters - cable -
 Comcast - (TV cable), etc. -- need the
 closed captioning on TV now - now -
 not until 2009 - no way - no way!!!

I did not understand myself about that - FCC
 strikes down cable - must carry - rules and
 FCC chair Promotes Post-Digital TV Rule and
 FCC chair wants to force cable industry to
 service analog TVs, etc.

you - Kevin Martin say - "no words" about
 the closed captioning on TV with the channels,
 etc. there!

I think you - Kevin Martin not think about
 the closed captioning on TV with the channels,
 etc. --- I say "SHIT" and "SHIT" to
 you - Kevin!! - I am not happy and

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②

Frustrated and enough angry with you - FCC - Kevin Martin and all the commissioners, etc., too!! -- NOT FAIR TO DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING!! -- Federal Government must pay for the closed captioning on TV with the channels, etc., in PA, and other States, too! from our Taxes, etc., and other peoples, too!!

I want to give you - FCC - Kevin Martin that you - Kevin must force cable / broadcasters / Comcast - (TV cable), etc., with the closed captioning on TV with the channels, etc., in PA, now - now!!!

Please you - FCC Kevin Martin must write a short note and send it me by FAX: (412)-751-8538 or E-mail address: jst1477@comcast.net soon - (ASAP). I want to know about that. O.K. Thank you.

Sincerely,
John S. Thomson
(Deaf)
147 Royal Oak Drive
McAesport, PA. 15131-2005

Phone: (412)-751-8638-(TTY) / Video Phone-(VP-100)
FAX: (412)-751-8538
E-mail address: jst1477@comcast.net

NO WAY!

Sept. 13-07-(THURS.)

YOU - FCC Kevin Martin say - "NO WORDS" about
the closed captioning on TV with the channels, etc.
there!!

me/leapost, PA. (The Daily News)
Wed- Sept. 12-2007

BUSINESS

FCC chair wants to force cable industry to service analog TVs

By John J. ...
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FCC Chairman Kevin Martin says he wants to force cable companies to service analog TVs, which he says are still used by millions of people. He says the industry has been slow to do so, and he wants to speed up the process.

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* FCC Chair Promotes Post-Digital TV Rule

Sept. 11-07-(TUES.)



Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin speaks during a question and answer session during the Telecommunications Industry Association's Globalcomm conference in Chicago in this June 5, 2006 file photo. Martin is seeking to force the cable industry to continue servicing analog TVs even after the 2009 digital switchover. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

(AP) – Here's the pitch from the cable TV industry: One way or another, all subscribers will still be able to tune in their favorite shows when broadcasters shift to digital-only transmission in 2009.

Seeking more than a promise, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin wants commissioners to require cable companies to provide that service.

"Unless the commission acts, some cable customers may actually be harmed by the transition and lose the ability to view some of these channels," Martin told The Associated Press on Monday.

The FCC, which is scheduled to meet Tuesday, has been split over such a proposal in the past but may be moving toward a compromise.

The greatest impact of the digital conversion will be on viewers of non-digital televisions who receive their signals over the air. Beginning Feb. 18, 2009, they will be forced to buy a special converter box, subsidized by the government, to receive their channels.

The impact of the shift on the nation's cable subscribers is less certain.

Today, cable television system operators receive broadcast feeds in analog and digital format. Come Feb. 18, 2009, broadcasters must stop supplying the analog signal. That creates a problem for the cable industry's 32 million analog subscribers.

Cable operators can either convert the digital signal to analog at the point

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where their cable signal originates, or they can supply customers with a "down converter" device that will change digital signals to analog at the TV set.

This is essentially what the FCC wants to force the industry to do, under Martin's proposed rules.

Last week, the National Cable and Telecommunications Association launched a \$200 million advertising campaign to assure customers that the shift won't affect them. "Every TV set you have that's hooked up to cable will work just fine," happy customers intone in a TV spot.

What the commercials do not say is how the industry is going to manage the transition, something that concerns Gene Kimmelman, federal affairs chief for Consumers Union. "It is astounding that they're telling their customers 'don't worry, we're taking care of you' without telling them at what price."

NCTA spokesman Brian Dietz said analog consumers will not be charged more when the transition occurs. Nor will they be forced to sign up for a more expensive digital service.

The NCTA has committed to doing what the FCC is asking, but is resisting the mandate, a position Kimmelman calls "disingenuous."

The NCTA says what the FCC is doing violates the industry's constitutional rights.

"We've said we will voluntarily take care of our customers, which is different than a government mandate," Dietz said.

Dietz said a government-ordered transition would deny the thousands of cable system operators the flexibility they need in managing the transition.

Kimmelman credited the industry with launching the ad campaign, but said the government should assume an oversight role.

"I think there are some sticks that can be placed over their heads to try to ensure that they don't take advantage of their customers," he said.

On the Net:

To see the ads: <http://www.ncta.com/dtvspots>

FCC's digital transition Web site: <http://www.dtv.gov>

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FCC Says Cable to Keep Analog TV Until 2012

Wednesday, September 12th 2007 @ 11:45 AM PDT

* The U.S. switch to digital broadcast TV is coming in February, 2009, but the FCC will require cable companies to support analog televisions through 2012.

NOW - NOW NO WAY !! - NO CLOSED CAPTIONING ON TV WITH THE CHANNELS, ETC. THERE!

By now, a handful of Americans probably know that the FCC has mandated analog terrestrial television broadcasts cease in February 17, 2009, in favor of all-digital television broadcasting. (We use the word "handful" generously—the government, broadcasters, and the media haven't done a particularly good job of publicizing the transition.) The transition means that folks who rely on terrestrial television broadcasts will either have to switch to a television with a digital tuner, or purchase a converter box (the government will be subsidizing purchases in cases where it imposes a financial hardship) to continue using their old-style analog television; otherwise, the old-style analog TVs will go dark.

One factor that's been undefined in the U.S. digital television transition has been cable services: the mandate to convert to digital broadcasting does not apply to analog television services offered over cable systems...but cable operators would dearly like to discontinue analog services in order to free up more bandwidth on their systems, as well as more effectively monitor what customers watch (and pass that information along to advertisers, of course). Now, the Federal Communications Commission has ruled (PDF) that cable subscribers with analog televisions must be able to view broadcast television through February of 2012.

Under the ruling, cable companies can either convert the digital standard definition signal to analog format for analog cable subscribers, or serve broadcast television in a standard definition digital format provided all subscribers have equipment to view that digital content. Smaller cable systems with a channel capacity of 552 MHz or less may apply for an exemption. However, the FCC maintained its requirement that cable systems carry high-definition broadcast signals in HD format, and that picture quality of broadcast television signals must be at least as good as any other programming carried on the cable system.

Of course, what the FCC is *not* mandating is that the cable companies make it painless for subscribers to stick with analog cable: within regulatory limits which vary between regions, cable companies may be able to make it increasingly uncomfortable for subscribers to stick with good old analog cable, including increasing prices, adding fees, changing subscriber agreements, and simply shutting off the signal in cases where the analog channels are present but not explicitly part of a service package. Given the way most cable operators conduct business, none of those scenarios would be surprising.

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George Leopold
EE Times
(02/10/2005 12:23 PM EST)

WASHINGTON — In a blow to U.S. broadcasters, the Federal Communications Commission moved Thursday (Feb. 10) to invalidate dual-carriage rules that broadcasters argued required cable operators to carry both analog and digital channels on the systems.

Broadcaster groups vowed to fight the move in court.

Cable operators opposed the rules, also known as "must carry," arguing in court and before the FCC that they were an unconstitutional "taking" of its property and that carrying two sets of broadcast signals would prevent cable systems from delivering their own content.

The FCC's ruling affirmed its tentative earlier conclusion not to impose a "dual carriage" requirement on cable operators. It also affirmed another earlier decision that cable operators not be required to carry more than a single digital signal from an individual broadcaster.

Although the FCC found that the operative statutory language at issue is ambiguous on the subject of multicast must carry, it also found on the current record, that such a requirement is not necessary to further the purposes of the must-carry statute, as defined by the Supreme Court," the agency said in a statement.

"We hold that Congress did not give broadcasters the statutory right to free carriage of all their channels on a cable provider's system," FCC Chairman Michael Powell said in a separate statement. "New digital technology allows broadcasters to take what once was one channel, and divide it into four to six or even more channels as compression technology advances."

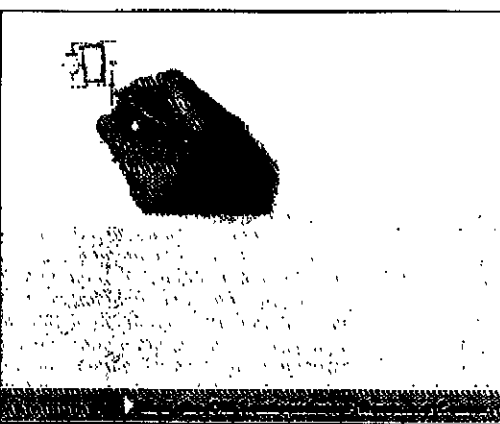
The measure, which has been before the agency and federal courts for several years, was approved by a 3-2 vote. FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin, a candidate to replace the outgoing Powell, said he opposed the measure because the FCC had "made a policy judgment that the benefits of this programming were outweighed by the burden on cable operators." Added Martin, "I disagree. I think the public would benefit more from more free programming."

Reacting to the decision, Edward Fritts, president of the Washington-based National Association of Broadcasters, said: "In Washington, there are no final victories and no final defeats. NAB will be working to overturn today's anticonsumer FCC decision in both the courts and in Congress."

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FCC to Cable Companies: Keep Carrying Those Analog Signals

By Bryan Gardiner | September 10, 2007 | 5:49 PM | Categories: Current Affairs, Television

Analog television owners have an extra three years of breathing room thanks to a new ruling by the FCC. On Tuesday, the government agency voted 5-to-0 to adopt rules mandating that cable providers continue to make all local broadcasts available to their users, even those with analog televisions, after the February 2009 digital transition goes into effect.

That ruling isn't sitting well with most cable companies. Indeed, the industry as a whole has argued before that such a decision would essentially cripple its ability to launch new channels and services by hogging their bandwidth. The FCC's not abdicating any tears, however.

Chairman Kevin Martin had this to say about the decision:

This [ruling] is about ensuring that all Americans with cable -- regardless of whether they are analog or digital subscribers are able to watch the same broadcast stations the day after the digital transition that they were watching the day before the transition. If the cable companies had their way, you, your mother and father, or your next door neighbor could go to sleep one night after watching their favorite channel and wake up the next morning to a dark fuzzy screen.

To avoid such Poltergeistian scenarios, the FCC is giving cable operators two choices, neither of which they want. Providers can either carry the digital signal in analog format (which basically means carrying three versions of a single channel, hence the bandwidth worries), or they can offer digital standard definition only and hand out converter boxes to all their subscribers -- the super expensive alternative.

Photo: Courtesy of the CTIA

The FCC currently estimates that 35 percent of all television homes -- or 40 million people -- currently have analog-only cable. Of course, the FCC is supposedly working hard on its own voucher plan (funded by the upcoming 700 MHz auction) to help buy digital-to-analog converter boxes for Americans who still have analog TV sets. Whether that plan is realistic, however, is another story. Regardless, Tuesday's move clearly shifts the onus to your cable provider.

And with the new rules lasting until 2012, at the very least, all the analog TV users out there will be able to squeeze a few more years of life out of their televisions.

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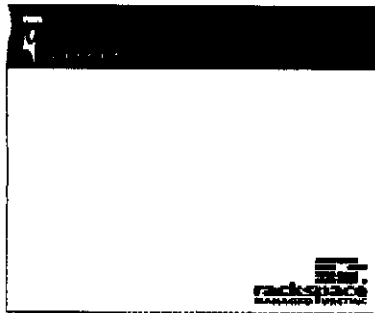
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FCC to Cable Companies: Keep Carrying Those

<http://blog.wired.com/business/2007/09/fcc-to-cable-co.html>

9/13/2007



this is so stupid. the FCC should have forced digital output years ago. should the FCC not have allowed microsoft to make new OS's since those with older cpu's couldn't handle the extra processing requirements? it's not like it's beyond the ability of the majority of americans to buy converter boxes or newer digital standard def tv's. we got to move ahead with technology.

Posted by: Eric | Sep 28, 2007 6:45 PM

POST A COMMENT

Name:

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Email Address:

js1477@comcast.net

Comments:

9-13-07- (Thurs.)

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By Bryan Cantelero | September 12, 2007 | 5:49:08 PM | Categories: Current Affairs, Television

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Posted by: Eric | Sep 12, 2007 5:41:54 PM

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Posted by: John S. Thomson -(DEAF) | Sep 12, 2007 9:48:53 PM

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Posted by: John S. Thomson -(DEAF) | Sep 12, 2007 9:52:09 PM

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(DRAFT)
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McKeesport, Pa. 15131-2003
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US FCC sets cable requirement for digital switchover

By Peter Kaplan

WASHINGTON, Sept 11 (Reuters) - U.S. communications regulators on Tuesday approved new rules designed to ensure that cable television subscribers who own analog TV sets will still have access to local broadcast TV channels after a switch-over to digital television in 2009.

The FCC voted to endorse rules that require cable operators such as Comcast Corp <CMCSA.O> and Time Warner Cable Inc <TWC.N> to continue carrying local broadcast channels that can be viewed on traditional analog TVs for three years after the switchover.

Broadcasters are required to switch to digital signals from analog by Feb. 17, 2009. The biggest concerns have centered on owners of analog televisions who view TV over-the-air.

Those people will have to get a converter box to continue watching television. The federal government plans to subsidize the cost of buying a digital-analog converter box by offering \$40 discount coupons to anyone who owns an analog television.

The separate problem addressed by FCC in Tuesday's action centered on the 35 percent of all television homes, or approximately 40 million households, that are analog cable subscribers.

Under the new FCC requirement, companies will have to carry the broadcast channels in digital form and also convert it to analog for viewers with analog sets.

The requirement approved by the commission was modified to add the three-year time limit, and to add a provision allowing small cable operators to request a waiver of the requirement.

The changes won the support of the cable industry, which had been opposed to the new rules.

"We continue to urge the FCC to act quickly to take into account the special circumstances of very small systems, and to make clear that those systems have the flexibility to serve all their customers without a one-size-fits-all mandate," the National Cable & Telecommunications Association said in a statement.

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Wednesday, September 12, 2007 - 12:00 AM

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Capital Watch

FCC rules affect cable after digital switchover

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved rules late Tuesday that it says will ensure millions of cable subscribers will still be able to watch broadcast programming after the digital-television transition in 2009.

The FCC says about 40 million households are analog-only cable subscribers. Tuesday's ruling will require cable operators to guarantee analog cable customers will receive broadcast channels until February 2012.

Beginning Feb. 18, 2009, broadcasters will stop transmitting old-style analog signals to over-the-air customers and to cable companies. Over-the-air customers will have to buy a converter box.

As for the nation's analog-cable subscribers, cable operators must either convert the digital signal to analog at the point where the cable signal originates, or supply customers with a "down-converter" device that will change digital signals to analog at the TV set.

Senate OKs ban on Mexican trucks

The Senate voted Tuesday to ban Mexican trucks from U.S. roadways, rekindling a more than decade-old trade dispute with Mexico.

By a 74-24 vote, the Senate approved a proposal by Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., prohibiting the Transportation Department from spending money on a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) pilot program giving Mexican trucks greater access to U.S. highways.

The proposal is part of a \$106 billion transportation and housing spending bill the Senate hopes to vote on this week. The House approved a similar provision to Dorgan's in July.

Until last week, Mexican trucks were restricted to a commercial border zone stretching about 20 miles inside the United States, except in Arizona, where it extended 75 miles. One truck has traveled deep into the U.S. interior as part of the pilot program.

Under NAFTA, Mexico can seek retaliation against the U.S. for failing to adhere to the treaty's requirements, including retaining tariffs on goods the treaty eliminates, said Sidney Weintraub, a professor emeritus at the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs in Austin.

The trucking program allows up to 100 Mexican carriers to send their trucks on U.S. roadways for delivery and pickup of cargo. None can carry hazardous material or haul cargo between U.S. points.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/cgi-bin/PrintStory.pl?document_id=2003880214&zsection... 9/13/2007

Justice Dept. spares Chiquita executives

The Justice Department said Tuesday it will not prosecute 10 Chiquita Brands International executives involved in the company's now-defunct payoff of Colombian terrorists protecting its most profitable banana-growing operation.

The long-awaited decision was part of a sentencing memo urging U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth to fine Chiquita \$25 million and have the company serve five years' probation for its illegal deals. The sentencing hearing before Lamberth is Sept. 17.

If accepted, the fine would mark the largest criminal penalty imposed under U.S. global terrorism sanctions laws.

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EETIMES ONLINE

EE Times: Latest News

FCC OKs digital TV rules pushed by cable operators

George Leopold

(09/12/2007 6:09 PM EDT)

URL: <http://www.eetimes.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=201805977>

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission has adopted digital TV transition rules that will require cable operators to either carry digital broadcast signals in analog format or downconvert digital signals for subscribers.

The latter option would require that cable operators provide subscribers with converter boxes to view digital broadcasts.

The dual "must-carry" ruling requiring cable operators to provide both analog and digital broadcast signals represents a compromise between broadcasters and cable operators who had sparred over "must-carry" rules in the run-up to the U.S. digital TV transition. U.S. analog TV broadcasts are scheduled to end on February 2009.

A key provision of the ruling approved by the FCC on Tuesday (Sept. 11) would extend the "viewability requirements" to February 2012. But regulators agreed to review the requirement during its last year to determine if it can be lifted "in light of the state of technology and the marketplace."

"The 1992 Cable Act is very clear," FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said in a statement issued with the ruling, "Cable operators must ensure that all local broadcast stations carried pursuant to this act are 'viewable' by all cable subscribers. Thus, they may not simply cut off the signals of these must-carry broadcast stations after the digital transition. The order we adopt today prevents the cable operators from doing just that."

Cable operators said they were pleased with the "must-carry" ruling, which they had fought in court for years. "We are pleased that the FCC dropped an ill-considered mandate that would have turned back the clock on decades of digital technology innovation," Kyle McSlarrow, president of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association, said in a statement.

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FCC strikes down cable 'must-carry' rules

George Leopold

(02/10/2005 12:23 PM EST)

URL: <http://www.eetimes.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=60300126>

WASHINGTON — In a blow to U.S. broadcasters, the Federal Communications Commission moved Thursday (Feb. 10) to invalidate dual-carriage rules that broadcasters argued required cable operators to carry both analog and digital channels on the systems.

Broadcaster groups vowed to fight the move in court.

Cable operators opposed the rules, also known as "must carry," arguing in court and before the FCC that they were an unconstitutional "taking" of its property and that carrying two sets of broadcast signals would prevent cable systems from delivering their own content.

The FCC's ruling affirmed its tentative earlier conclusion not to impose a "dual carriage" requirement on cable operators. It also affirmed another earlier decision that cable operators not be required to carry more than a single digital signal from an individual broadcaster.

Although the FCC "found that the operative statutory language at issue is ambiguous on the subject of multicast must carry, it also found on the current record, that such a requirement is not necessary to further the purposes of the must-carry statute, as defined by the Supreme Court," the agency said in a statement.

"We hold that Congress did not give broadcasters the statutory right to free carriage of all their channels on a cable provider's system," FCC Chairman Michael Powell said in a separate statement. "New digital technology allows broadcasters to take what once was one channel, and divide it into four to six or even more channels as compression technology advances."

The measure, which has been before the agency and federal courts for several years, was approved by a 3-2 vote. FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin, a candidate to replace the outgoing Powell, said he opposed the measure because the FCC had "made a policy judgment that the benefits of this programming were outweighed by the burden on cable operators." Added Martin, "I disagree. I think the public would benefit more from more free programming."

Reacting to the decision, Edward Fritts, president of the Washington-based National Association of Broadcasters, said: "In Washington, there are no final victories and no final defeats. NAB will be working to overturn today's anticonsumer FCC decision in both the courts and in Congress."

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